to whom they are referred to, the charges of laboratories for pathological or other diagnostic tests and also the cost of hospitalization. This is estimated to cost Rs. 201 crores annually.

(v) The ex-servicemen and war widows will be required to make a contribution at the same rate at which the Central Government pensioners are required to make contribution for availing medical facilities under the CGHS after retirement.

(vi) The scheme will be implemented in a phased manner in five years.

The scheme is contributory in nature. All service personnel on retirement will become members of the scheme on payment of prescribed contribution. Existing ex-servicemen and widows will be eligible to become members on payment of prescribed contribution.

Acquisition of KRIVAK CLASS frigate

2861. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to acquire first KRIVAK CLASS frigate from Russia for the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, what are the special over-riding capabilities of this State of the art Russian frigate; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to acquire an Aircraft carrier, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Three ships of modified KRIVAK class are being acquired from Russia for the Indian Navy.

(b) These ships would have state of the art anti-submarine, anti-ship and anti-air capabilities besides latest stealth features.

(c) An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been signed on 4th October, 2000 with the Government of the Russian Federation which, *inter-alia*, provides for the acquisition of 'Admiral Gorshkov', an aircraft

carrier, from Russia and its refit and modernisation. Negotiations for procurement of Admiral Gorshkov are being held.

Action against Army Officers in Tehelka Tapes

†2862. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of non-completion of investigation by the Tehelka Inquiry Commission, the action against the military officers could not be taken by the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reasons due to which further action on the basis of the defence department could not be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Necessary administrative/disciplinary action was initiated against six serving officers found culpable by an Army Court of Inquiry which investigated into the fictitious arms deal as highlighted in the Tehelka tapes. Based on the finalisation of administrative action in respect of two officers, the services of one officer have been terminated and the second officer has been awarded 'Censure'. Disciplinary and Administrative actions against the remaining four serving officers are in progress.

Defence co-operation with Israel

2863. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team led by the Defence Secretary recently visited Israel on a defence purchase mission; and

(b) if so, the details of the arms and equipments sought to be purchased and the agreements for purchase, if any, finalised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) An official delegation led by Defence Secretary visited Israel to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.